

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) An automatic address management method, comprising:

(a) establishing a fixed address for in a system wide network made up of a core portion with fixed addresses having network portion having a static already allocated predetermined interconnection;

(b) dynamically connecting and a terminal network portion with indefinite addresses, dynamically connected to said core network portion, in which an upper-lower order relation is established such that an upper order server allocates an address block to a lower order server and the a lower order server returns the address block to the upper order server, wherein, when said terminal portion is to be connected to said core portion, said method comprises:

(a)(c) a step in which a establishing a link to said lower order representative lower order server with a link to outside contained in said terminal network portion attempts to be connected to a segment contained in said core network portion;

(b)(d) requesting allocation of an address block to the upper order server supervising said segment by a step in which said representative lower order lower order server requests allocation of an address block to an upper order server supervising said segment; and

(e)(e) distributing the address block in said terminal network portion through a step in which said representative lower order lower order server distributes an address block in said terminal portion.

2. (currently amended) The automatic address management method according to claim 1 wherein, in said step ~~(a)~~(c), said ~~representative~~lower order server requests connection using an already known address owned by ~~an~~the upper order server of said segment.

3. (currently amended) The automatic address management method according to claim 2 wherein, in said step ~~(a)~~(c), said ~~representative~~lower order server requests acquisition of its own IP address.

4. (currently amended) The automatic address management method according to claim 3 wherein, in said step ~~(a)~~(c), an address is automatically allocated to said ~~representative~~lower order server in accordance with DHCP (Dynamic Host Configuration Protocol) or IPCP (Internet protocol Control Protocol).

5. (currently amended) The automatic address management method according to claim 1 wherein if, in said step ~~(b)~~(d), an upper order server receiving an address block allocation request does not own a sufficient address pool, an address block allocation request is recursively issued to a further upper order server.

6. (currently amended) The automatic address management method according to claim 1 wherein, in said step ~~(e)~~(e), an address block is distributed to ~~each~~said lower order server in said terminal portion in accordance with DNCP (Dynamic Network Configuration Protocol).

7. (currently amended) A router system for a network comprising:

~~In a system-wide network made up of a core network portion with fixed addresses, having a static already allocated predetermined interconnection to said network and;~~

a terminal network portion with ~~indefinite~~ dynamic addresses, dynamically connected to said core network portion, in which an upper-lower order relation is established such that an upper order server allocates an address block to a lower order server and the lower order server returns the address block to the upper order server; ~~and~~

a router, functioning as a ~~representative~~ lower order server ~~having a link for outside~~ for said terminal network portion; said router comprising:

(a) connection means ~~in through which a the ~~representative~~ lower order server with a link to outside contained in said terminal portion attempts to be connected~~ communicates to a segment contained in said core network portion;

(b) address acquisition means in which said ~~representative~~ lower order server requests allocation of an address block to an upper order server supervising said segment; and

(c) address distribution means in which said ~~representative~~ lower order server distributes an address block in said terminal network portion.

8. (original) The router according to claim 7 wherein said connection means (a) requests connection using an already known address owned by an upper order server of said segment.

9. (currently amended) The router according to claim 8 wherein said connection means (a) requests acquisition of an IP address of the ~~representative~~ lower order server itself.

10. (currently amended) The router according to claim 9 wherein said connection means (a) has an address of said ~~representative~~lower order server automatically allocated in accordance with DHCP (Dynamic Host Configuration Protocol) or IPCP (Internet protocol Control Protocol).

11. (currently amended) The router according to claim 7 wherein, if ~~an~~the upper order server receiving an address block allocation request from said address acquisition means (b) does not own a sufficient address pool, an address block allocation request is recursively issued to a further upper order server.

12. (currently amended) The router according to claim 7 wherein said address distribution means (c) distributes a nab to ~~each~~the lower order server in said terminal portion in accordance with DNCP (Dynamic Network Configuration Protocol).

13. (currently amended) A computer program, furnished on a computer-readable medium, said program comprising:

(a) an executable step for establishing a fixed address~~furnishing medium for furnishing a computer program in a tangible and computer readable form, said computer program being such a program by means of which a computer system connected to a system wide network made up of a~~ for a core network portion with fixed addresses having a ~~static already allocated~~predetermined interconnection;

(b) an executable step for dynamically connecting~~and~~ a terminal network portion~~with indefinite addresses dynamically connected~~ to said core network portion, in which an upper-lower order relation is established such that an upper order server allocates an address block to a lower order server and the lower order server returns the address block to the upper order server;

~~(c) an executable step for, operates as a router, wherein, for~~ assuring automatic address management when said terminal network portion is ~~to be connected~~ to said core network portion, ~~said computer program comprises:~~

~~(a) a step in which a~~ wherein a representative lower order server with a link to outside contained in said terminal network portion ~~attempts to be connected~~ connects to a segment contained in said core network portion;

~~(b)(d) an executable step for a step in which said representative server requests~~ requesting allocation of an address block to an upper order server supervising said segment by said lower order server; and

~~(e)(e) an executable step for a step in which said representative server distributes~~ distributing the an address block in said terminal network portion.

14. (currently amended) The program furnishing medium according to claim 13 wherein, in said step ~~(a)~~ (c), said ~~representative~~ lower order server requests connection using an already known address owned by an upper order server of said segment.

15. (currently amended) The program furnishing medium according to claim 14 wherein, in said step ~~(a)~~ (c), said ~~representative~~ lower order server requests acquisition of its own IP address.

16. (currently amended) The program furnishing medium according to claim 15 wherein, in said step ~~(a)~~ (c), an address is automatically allocated to said ~~representative~~ lower order server in accordance with DHCP (Dynamic Host Configuration Protocol) or IPCP (Internet protocol Control Protocol).

17. (currently amended) TM program furnishing medium according to claim 13 wherein if, in said step ~~(b)~~(d), an upper order server receiving ~~an~~the address block allocation request does not own a sufficient address pool, an address block allocation request is recursively issued to a further upper order server.

18. (previously amended) The program furnishing medium according to claim 13 wherein, in said step ~~(e)~~(e), ~~an~~the address block is distributed to each server in said terminal portion in accordance with DNCP (Dynamic Network Configuration Protocol).

19-24. (canceled)